

ALLIED Connections

SPRING 2024

A PUBLICATION OF ALLIED COOPERATIVE®



HIXTON MILL PREPARES FOR OPENING

The Hixton Feed Mill project is nearing completion. After almost two years in the construction phase the Feed Division plans to open its new facility in mid-March.

ALLIED
COOPERATIVE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tim Clemens Retires

Benefits of Humics

Making Sense of Biologicals

Soybean Seed Treatments:
Do I need that?

Augusta C-Store Opening Soon

Outgoing Board Members

Help for Colorado
Potato Beetles

“Our Board has a great vision of today, tomorrow and the future and where we need to be for our customers,” said Ed Sabey, Director of Feed. Located just off I-94, the mill is strategically located for easy access for our customers and delivery efficiencies. “The infrastructure of highways where it’s located, puts us in a strategic position that will allow us to service the center of the state and beyond.”

The 100,000 ton capacity feed mill boasts a state-of-the-art milling system featuring 32 overhead bins (1000 ton storage), 12 loadout bins for mixed feeds (250 ton), two mixing systems (one for bulk feeds and one for calf and heifer feeds), and a bag feed warehouse. It will be equipped with automation software and equipment.

“It’s a high-tech mill,” said Sabey. “We mix feed by computer. It’s a new facility that has the ability to make accurate, quality feed in a short amount of time. It’s very efficient.”

“The Hixton Mill was designed in part by some of the features that we have at the Auburndale mill,” added Sabey. “Those being extra load-out bins, an efficient way of loading, electronic mixing, and warehouse space that we can supply for custom orders, pick-up and/or the bag run coming out of there.”

“We have the ability to custom develop any ration that any farm would want,” he added. “We also manufacture floor stocks that are formulated to meet some of those smaller custom mixes. We want customers to be able to order anything from a bulk delivery to a custom bag order.”

“We look forward to growing our feed business as a result of the expanded and more efficient operation,” added Sabey. “Our primary goal is to provide our customers with quality feeds you can trust and customer service that can’t be beat.”

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

FINANCIAL RESULTS

On February 21st we held our annual meeting for ProVision Partners Cooperative (legacy). I am happy to report that against a backdrop of rising inflation and higher distribution expenses, both legacy co-ops delivered solid financial results as we closed our 2023 fiscal year.

ProVision Partners (legacy) recorded sales of \$280.6 million for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. We achieved local net earnings of \$9.1 million, with total net earnings of \$17.4 million, which includes regional patronage from CHS and Land O'Lakes and Energy Solution Partners (ESP) earnings.

The success of our cooperative is truly the result of exceptional people – as our staff and you, our customers, form a great partnership. Without a strong team of employees, we would not be able to achieve results like this. I am extremely grateful for the hard work everyone at our cooperative does each day.

Together our co-op is stronger than it's ever been. At the same time, the world is changing. Our marketplace is changing. If we are to remain strong, we must evolve with it. Our Board of Directors and staff are focused on how we can better serve our members today and in the future.

FEED/RETAIL CHANGES

We expect to open the new Hixton feed mill in mid-March. This project is the result of several years of planning and hard work. The mill was designed with the future in mind and will help improve delivery, mixing, and labor efficiencies. We knew that upon completion of the new mill, we would need to phase out other aging facilities. On February 1st we started that process with the closing of the Humbird mill. The proximity of the Humbird mill to the new Hixton mill makes this a perfect spot for consolidation and is not expected to be a major inconvenience to our customers. Having the grain facility in Hixton and additional personnel from other departments will be very important in creating operational efficiencies.

We will begin transitioning feed currently being manufactured at the Stratford mill to the Auburndale mill in the near future. Customers will still be able to pick-up feed orders and purchase bagged feeds at the Stratford location and the office will remain open at this location for feed pick-up, as well as grain and agronomy customers. The Stratford grain facility will remain open for drying and storage.

Recently Allied Cooperative learned that the owner of the property we lease for the Luxemburg Country Store had other plans for the facility and did not wish to renew our lease. After carefully evaluating the situation and studying our options, the Board of Directors and management has elected to close the Luxemburg facility. The store will close on February 29, 2024. At the same

time the decision was made to close the Manitowoc Country Store location, effective May 1, 2024. We will have the ability to service the area from our Seymour Feed Mill utilizing our route truck delivery service.

NEW FACILITIES

We are looking forward to the opening of our new Cenex® Convenience Store in Augusta in mid-March. The Cenex brand was built with homegrown roots and prides itself on its community connections. We think this store is a perfect fit for the Augusta community. It is a much-needed business and is expected to be a real asset to the community.

As we continue to look at improving our facilities, at our last board meeting the Board approved moving forward with a new dry fertilizer plant at our Plover location. Currently the Plover plant can accommodate 2250 ton of dry fertilizer. Last year they turned the plant seven times. We recognize that if we are to meet growing customer demand and grow our business, an investment in the infrastructure at this location is necessary. The Plover facility has a prime location, is situated on the rail, and is perfectly positioned to support our customers in the vegetable, row crops and livestock marketplace. A new plant will expand their capacity and blending capabilities and will also take some of the pressure off our Adams agronomy facility.

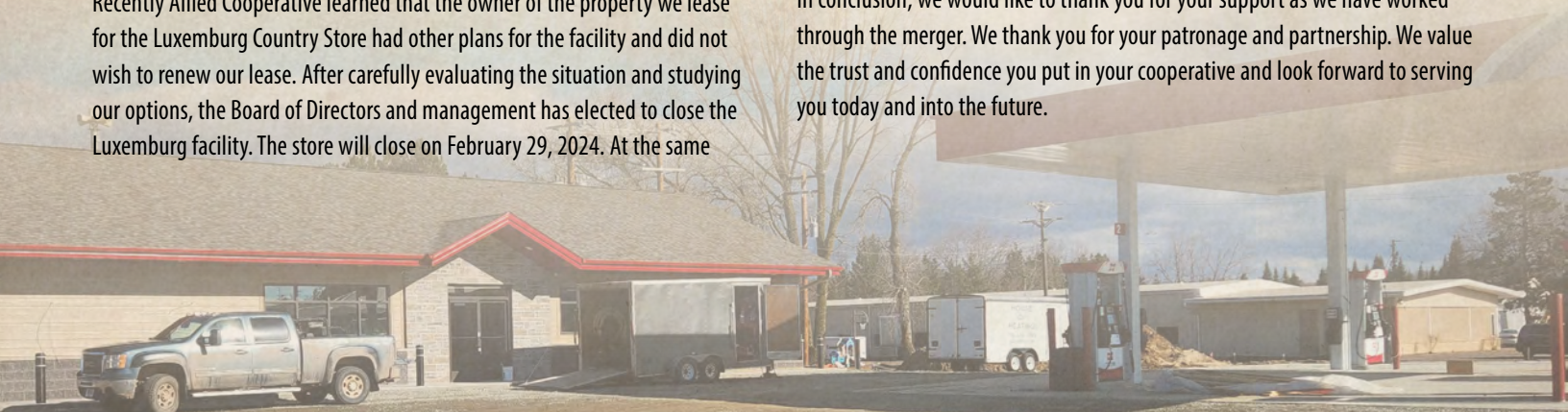
IN APPRECIATION

Each year we recognize our employees who have milestone anniversaries. I think it is meaningful to recognize that 149 employees achieved anniversary milestones over ten years this year. 71 employees have worked for the co-op for more than 20 years. The rewards of growth certainly aren't without challenges, but we're surrounded by a dedicated team of employees whose work ethic and daily contributions continue to impress me.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for your support as we have worked through the merger. We thank you for your patronage and partnership. We value the trust and confidence you put in your cooperative and look forward to serving you today and into the future.



Rob Larson,
CEO/General Manager





Congratulations Tim Clemens!

After nine years with Allied Cooperative (legacy), Tim Clemens will officially retire on March 31, 2024. Tim began his cooperative career in 1979 working as a laborer at Pine Island Farmer's Elevator, a co-op based in Pine Island, MN. Over the years he worked in grain, feed, agronomy, and the farm store in positions of manufacturing, delivery, sales and management.

Tim took on the General Manager role in 1997 and then merged with a neighboring co-op in 1999, adding energy to the mix. The merged co-op was called Farm Country Co-op. In 2002, Tim went to work at Greenway Co-op as Operations Manager and was promoted to General Manager/CEO shortly thereafter.

In 2014 he joined the Allied team as CFO/COO and assumed the role of CEO in 2018. During his tenure as our CEO, Allied Cooperative has experienced steady growth and strong financial results. He successfully led this co-op through the COVID-19 pandemic and has worked diligently through the merger to ensure a proper transition. Our co-op has been fortunate to benefit from Tim's leadership and while he did not want a lengthy "farewell article" in this newsletter, we would be remiss if we didn't take the time to thank him for his dedication and years of service. His leadership and many contributions have added much to the success of our cooperative.

FAREWELL FROM OUR RETIRING CEO

After 45 years in the cooperative system, I will retire later this month. It has been an honor to work in this industry. Farmers are great customers and I couldn't have asked for a better career.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

With the merger complete, Allied Cooperative (legacy) will not be holding an annual meeting this year. I am pleased, however, to report Allied's fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 was another record-breaking year. This is the fourth year in a row that we have experienced record-breaking sales and profitability. Allied Cooperative (legacy) had sales of \$282.7 million, with local net earnings of \$12.7 million and total net earnings of \$24.4 million, which includes regional patronage from CHS and Land O'Lakes and ESP earnings. It is very unusual to see this many great years in a row, and it is very satisfying to end my career on this high-note.

A TEAM EFFORT

It has taken a great team to achieve this success. I've had the privilege of serving with a Board of Directors that truly cares about the future of this cooperative; a leadership team that has challenged me and helped me grow; and the best team of employees that I have worked with in my career. The opportunity to work with such talented people is also very unusual and I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

WITH GRATITUDE

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors, members, and employees for giving me the opportunity to be CEO of this remarkable cooperative. I would like to thank my family for their years of support and encouragement. I leave Allied Cooperative with many fond memories. I also believe I leave an organization well-positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of being a leader in an ever-changing agricultural industry. It has been a privilege to serve you.



Tim Clemens

2024 Allied Scholarships

Allied Cooperative is currently accepting applications for its 2024 college scholarship program. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2024. Winners will be notified by the end of May. To request a scholarship application, please contact Karmen Bernacchi at info@allied.coop. For more info and to download an application go to www.allied.coop.



IN APPRECIATION

We would like to recognize and thank the following outgoing board members for their years of service to our Board of Directors:

Mark Helming Allied Cooperative

Tony Lien ProVision Partners

Harvey Petersen ProVision Partners

David Rundahl Allied Cooperative

James Simon ProVision Partners

Steve Sternweis ProVision Partners

Each of these individuals have played an instrumental role in guiding our cooperative with their insights and unique expertise. We thank them for their time, talents, and leadership!



Main Office
540 S Main St • PO Box 729
Adams, WI 53910

Central Regional Office
2327 W Veterans Pkwy • PO Box 988
Marshfield, WI 54449

West Regional Office
70 South State St • PO Box 20
Hixton, WI 54635

East Regional Office
354 Morrow St
Seymour, WI 54165

allied.coop 800.247.5679 info@allied.coop

The Benefits of Humics in Agriculture



by Mike Soley,
Agronomy Advisor

With the higher commodity prices the last few years and the high cost of fertilizer, there has been a trend of adding products that help your fertilizer efficiency. These products range from hormones, biologicals and humics. In this article we will focus on humics, and how it can help improve our soil structure and microbial activity, which has been degraded over years from high intensity agriculture.



Treated vs. untreated corn.



Treated vs. untreated potatoes.



Treated vs. untreated potatoes.

What is Humic acid?

When you think of humic acid, think of carbon. Humic is similar to carbon's function in the soil. It provides the carbon food source which stimulates soil microbiology, which gives a positive impact on soil pH. It provides a food source to grow beneficial soil fungi like mycorrhiza.

With a healthier soil, your crops root mass (which is the digestive system of plants) will be increased. The greater root surface area, the greater nutrient uptake potential. Plant physiology dictates windows of nutrient uptake and healthy root masses ensure your plant can access more nutrients when it's needed. This equates to greater yield potential.

Humic acid also activates soil chemistry that induces chelation and promotes availability, which enhances the plant's ability to take in essential nutrients. By increasing opportunity for microbial transfer of nutrient uptake, humic products provide a home for positive microbial activity and healthier soils.

Healthy Crops Build Healthy Soils

We often see plants as a one-way street moving nutrients from the soil, through the roots, up – but crop growth is all about the conversion of the sun's light into sugar, the building blocks of energy for your crop. Crops excrete organic acids, produced through photosynthesis, to increase nutrient availability within the immediate root zone. With healthier crops comes an increase in photosynthesis potential, which in turn improves fertility for healthier soil.

In short, humic acid has many benefits including the following:

- Increases soil carbon
- Improves plant health
- Improves germination and viability of seeds
- Chelates nutrients to increase availability
- Increases cation exchange capacity (CEC)
- Improves soil structure for better aeration and water movement
- Stimulates beneficial microorganisms, which can improve long-term soil pH
- Especially effective on sandy soils

At Allied we carry the BioGro product line, which is liquid and used primarily at planting and at foliar. Premium 6 and 21 are our main products. Also, Humik One from HGS BioScience which is dry and can be blended into your dry fertilizer blends.

Fertilizer Report



by Joe Spinler,
Executive VP

Quiet – that is one word we could use to describe the fertilizer markets over the last two to three months.

But be careful not to get lulled to sleep by this activity or lack thereof. Market analysts do have some concerns and one “watchout” is the fact that the lack of commitments by you, as customers, is widespread across the country and this will lead to less pre-buying.

Why is this a problem? With the end-user not wanting to commit, retailers are also unlikely to commit. This in turn leads to the distribution system which is also less likely to commit. Now, some companies will still send product up the river for spring – that is for sure. However, it will be less tons, as they do not wish to own the inventory in the event the price softens. This can put tremendous pressure on our supply system, as just-in-time inventory can be a real problem, especially if the whole Midwest breaks at the same time.

In addition, we have had a very mild winter. Hopefully, this will lead to an early spring. But this can and will result in added pressure if retailers have waited to take on inventory or a market position.

Overall, all potash and phosphates were tight coming out of a big fall season and the industry is working on resupply. Phosphates are the ones to watch closely, as it has the largest possibility to go higher in price. Nitrogen has been like a yo-yo and has gone up and down, but retail pricing has remained relatively flat. All nitrogen products have the largest potential to be volatile if anything more happens in the Middle East with shipping commerce.

As we are nearing the spring planting season, if you haven't yet met with your Allied Agronomy Advisory, please do so. When you meet, please consider getting your spring inputs locked in so that we have time to make sure we have what you need when you are ready to hit the field.

Allied Elevate Liquid Starter



by Tom Hoffman,
Sales Lead

Allied Cooperative offers a premium liquid starter fertilizer called Allied Elevate. Allied Elevate is a phosphate based liquid blend with an analysis of 8-27-4 1.2% sulfur. It is traditionally used as an in-furrow liquid starter at typically not more than 5 gallons per acre in furrow. If not used in furrow with the seed, there is greater flexibility in application rates.

An independent survey of farmers from across the United States were asked why they utilized starter fertilizer as a part of their crop production program. Here are some of the responses:

- Gives corn a faster start
- Plant health is better
- Increased yield, better production
- Helps early planting

Allied Elevate has a potassium source that is derived from a natural plant metabolite that provides the most efficient nutrient uptake. This technology results in quicker germination, improved root development, and an elevated abiotic stress tolerance, leading to better plant establishment, more vigorous growth, and higher yields.

Allied Elevate also has sulfur in the mix which is an essential nutrient for crop production ranked only behind nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Sulfur is critical for young plants, as deficiencies to young plants early in

their growth stage will cause yield loss. Sulfur works closely with nitrogen in plant functions for optimum yields.

Add zinc to Allied Elevate! Zinc is an element used by corn in small amounts, yet it is one of the most important micronutrients in producing high yielding corn. The best way to enhance zinc to your liquid starter is to have us apply our Zinc EDTA source to Allied Elevate for enhanced zinc availability.

Ascend® Plant Growth Regulator can also be added for enhanced plant health benefits. Ascend has been proven to accelerate leaf, stem, and root growth. Research has proven that there is a 7.5 bushel per acre average positive yield response when using Ascend with a starter vs. a starter without Ascend.

Ask our Allied Agronomy Advisors and staff about Allied Elevate Liquid Plant food, as well as the addition of zinc and Ascend to your starter for enhanced crop production yields and profits.

Ascend®
By WINFIELD

PLANT NUTRIENT* REQUIREMENTS FOR A 180 BU/A CORN CROP				
NUTRIENT	1 st 25 Days		2 nd 25 Days	
	%	lbs/A	%	lbs/A
Nitrogen (N)	8	19	35	84
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	4	4	27	27
Potash (K ₂ O)	9	22	44	104

*Nutrients taken up by corn in 25 day periods after emergence

Making Sense of Biologicals?



by Megan Kling,
Sales Lead



by Marilyn Whalen,
Agronomy Advisor

Do you have questions on all the biological products on the market?

Our Agronomy department is working hard to sort through the biological space as well. With little regulation in the biological space, every company has options... just pick your flavor. But does the product consistently give a return on investment is the question. Or is it all just marketing?

At Allied, we understand your break-evens are tight right now with a down grain market. We want to bring you products that we trust will be worth your investment. Mosaic and Rosen's are two reputable agriculture suppliers that have products our agronomy advisors have seen first-hand success with through on farm trials. Both Biologicals consist of multiple strands of bacteria that bring benefits to plant performance. To put it simple...the bacteria improve nutrient uptake and availability. As a result, we see stronger plant vigor, increased root growth and improved stress management.

These bacteria have a lasting effect on the plants, because the populations colonize and grow throughout the entire growing season. They are often referred to as a fertilizer catalyst. No, that's not just a fancy marketing term. The bacteria assist in converting non-usable forms of nutrients into readily available forms. Foster® can be added into

in-furrow liquid starter or sprayed foliar along with an herbicide pass. PowerCoat® can be applied with dry fertilizer (starter or broadcast). Both products have great shelf-life and handling characteristics.

WATCH OUTS with other Biologicals in the Market Place:

- **Does the product market “cutting back” on dry fertilizer because the biological can displace the nutrients?** A solid fertility program is always your foundation to a successful crop. BEWARE of companies telling you to buy a biological and “save money” by cutting back on your fertility program. This is marketing and is not likely in your best interest. Biologicals can help maximize nutrient uptake or add a small amount of nutrient value at critical growing stages. Biologicals can further ensure a positive ROI on your fertility program.
- **Question the shelf life.** Biological products are “living organisms”. Certain products have limited shelf lives and you don't want to spend your dollars on a product that is expired.
- **What are the storage conditions?** Again, because the products are “living organisms,” they have strict storage guidelines to maintain the products viability and quality. For example, if a biological is delivered on a pallet to your trailer, do not leave that product in the hot sun for very long. Products probably shouldn't be exposed to freezing temperatures, hot temperatures, or direct sunlight. Are you buying from a trusted retailer that stored the product correctly?

We at Allied do not take being your agronomy advisors lightly. Trust us to help you try a biological that is worth your investment. If you would like more information on Foster or PowerCoat, please reach out to your agronomy advisor.



Soybean Seed Treatments

Do I Need that?



by Megan Kling,
Sales Lead



What's the most common theme around increasing soybean yields lately?—

Plant early! But as we know it's not just that easy. Increasing average yields is a systems approach. It's not just one thing. Planting early has high reward but has higher risks as well. Planting too early can result in yield loss if emergence is delayed, and there are soil pests/diseases present. Quality seed treatments protect that high quality seed and work for weeks in the soil. This is why quality soybean treatment is extra important in maximizing soybean yield. If you have ordered "treated beans", do you know what's in that treatment?

Nitrogen is not typically applied to soybean fields because soybean plants can fix their own N, right? Sort of...soybean roots have a unique ability to form a symbiotic relationship with a soil bacteria (rhizobia). Nodules are formed on the soybean roots, the rhizobia fix nitrogen, which is beneficial for the soybean plant and the plant provides energy for growth and development of the bacteria. Although not a "seed treatment", inoculants like Nvincible® Plus or Optimize® FXC may be applied to soybean seed at the treater. The question may be, do I need inoculant or can I rely on the rhizobia to be present in my soils already?

- Have soybeans been added to your crop rotation in recent years? - If yes, **YOU WANT INOCULANT ON YOUR BEANS.**
- Have soybeans been in your rotation for many years? - Then maybe. Maybe the rhizobia are present in high enough concentrations that adding an inoculant isn't necessary. Just keep in mind that a

60 bushel soybean crop needs 200-300# of Nitrogen. Adding an inoculant to your soybean seed is a cheap insurance to make sure biological nitrogen fixation occurs.

Fungicide and Insecticide

Fungicide seed treatments can manage two different types of pathogens: Seedborne fungal pathogens that lead to seed decay and soilborne pathogens that infect seedlings, roots or development of Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) fungus. You are likely to see a return on investment if you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions.

- Do your fields have a history of SDS or seedling diseases?
- Are you planting into wet, cool soils below 60 degrees F?
- Are your soils compacted?
- Do you have a history of flooded fields?
- Are you planting less than 140,000 seeds per acre?
- Do you practice No-till or reduced tillage and have high surface residue?

Don't forget the importance of insecticide as well. The insecticide gives you protection from pests, including bean leaf beetles, early season soybean aphids and seed corn maggots. A full FI treatment from the Acceleron® or Warden® brands offer the best base protection for healthy roots and a strong stand from the start.

Before treating your seed with nematicides, reach out to your Allied agronomy advisor and submit your four free nematode samples to the Pest Pros lab to assess if nematode populations are high. Cover Crops, crop



rotation and choosing nematode resistant varieties are all essential strategies to combat nematode pressure. A nematicide treatment is one additional management tool to protect yield. Ilevio® is Allied's go-to for nematicide. Ilevio also protects against foliar and root rot phases of SDS. While nematode damage increases in hot, dry conditions, SDS thrives in cool, wet conditions. With Ilevio seed treatment, your soybean crop is protected no matter the weather conditions.

Is white mold an issue in your fields? Tripidity®/Heads Up® will give you a multi-mode layer of action and protection to suppress white mold disease in high pressure conditions. Tripidity is a bio-stimulant seed treatment that has cytokinin, gibberillic acid, and indole-

Continued on page 9...

It's Going to be a Long, Hard Uphill Climb



by Rich Dahlke,
Adams Grain Location Manager/
Grain Merchandiser
rdahlke@allied.coop

The January USDA report has a history of being a market mover. This time it was not very friendly to the American Farmer. I have to apologize. Many of you who asked my opinion on which way I thought it would go probably lost some confidence in me. I figured the USDA would increase the ethanol grind and I had the general feeling that corn was fairly cheap, which should be good for demand. I did not think the USDA would increase average corn yield from 174.9 to 177.3 bu per acre. Ouch...

Corn and soybean prices are facing some fierce headwinds. The environment in which we used to sell grain on the world market is changing. As you know, South America is a fierce competitor for oilseeds. Right now, their soybeans are \$1.80 cheaper than U.S. beans. We import small amounts of South American beans into this country every year, but this year we are likely to see those imports increase. The Panama Canal has had to cut traffic through the canal by 30% because of low water levels which increases our freight costs. Global stocks of grain are high. China's demand is no longer increasing. Pork demand in China has flatlined. Wages in China are facing declines and there is talk of deflation. In years back, China's demand for grains was growing exponentially year after year. It was constant and robust. It didn't matter how high world stocks became because China would chew up large chunks of it in short order.

Moving forward we cannot rely on China to be the cash cow. This may very well be China's last decade. We need new domestic demand for beans to replace some of these lost exports. Nonetheless, the USDA still thinks we will export 1.75 billion bu of beans. Time will tell... I kind of doubt it.

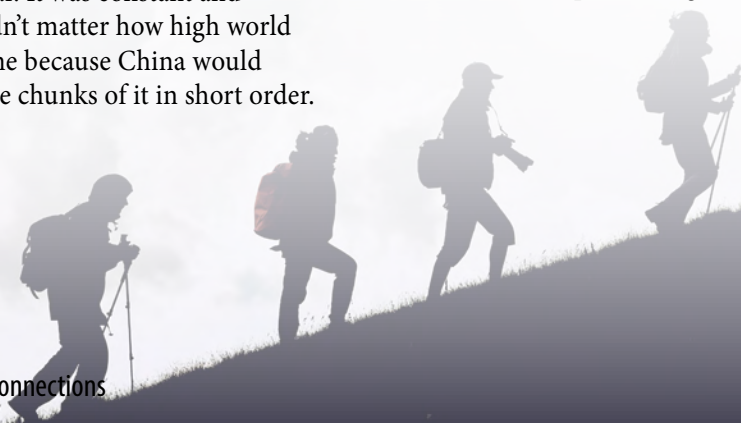
At this point, the funds are short about 280,000 contracts of corn and the sell-off continues. Outside market traders don't seem to be interested in owning corn. If you're a "glass half-full" kind of person, note that the funds usually go long at some time during the year. So, eventually the funds will buy it all back, but they need a reason. Dangerously low ending stocks or a weather scare in the U.S. or another country will usually do it. We are coming into our spring season so it may be up to mother nature to turn this fund position around.

Let's say the funds do invert their position. What's it worth to the U.S. farmer? History tells us about 30 to 40 cents per bushel realistically. The problem is that the U.S. farmer is holding on to 10+ billion bu of corn which is a big number. So, in theory, if we see a rally and the American farmer starts to unload it, the local basis may weaken thereby limiting the cash price. We should also note that a good barometer of where prices for grain

will go is to look at the stocks to use ratio. Right now that ratio is close to 15%. That means that 15% of the corn produced in this country does not have a home or use. We have to go back to the years 2014 through 2019 to find stocks to use similar to what we have now. Does anyone remember what futures did during those years? Futures hovered around \$3 to \$4 during that time. We are swimming against the current on corn.

So, are we all thoroughly depressed yet? There are some glimmers of hope. We need to remember that Brazil is harvesting so, naturally, during the glut of harvest (just like here in the U.S.) their price should be lower and as harvest finishes their price and ours should come together. As for finding new domestic markets for grains, there is a lot of investment going into ethanol and soy oil for jet fuel. There are a good number of plants in the planning stages awaiting EPA approval. The amount of grain these plants will use is significant.

No matter what environment we are in, the rules are the same. Every year the market seems to give us a chance to sell at a profit. Knowing your costs is always step one into knowing when that time is. We at Allied Cooperative can help with that. We can help you with a crop budget so you have an idea at what level your profit begins. Give us a call.



One Organ at a Time

A few years ago, in the ProVision Partner's Connection newsletter, we told the heartwarming story of Brian Forrest, a dairy farmer and co-op member who donated a portion of his liver to his cousin, Richard Gillete. His life-saving gift not only changed the life of his cousin, it changed his life as well.

The liver is the only organ that can regenerate itself and grow from a small piece back to its full size. That means that a living donor can volunteer to divide their healthy liver and give one piece to someone else in need. The liver transplant surgery was complex and took 12 weeks of recovery time.

"When I was there for my cousin, I lived in the UW transplant center for eight days," said Brian. "As I was around that place, I would meet people and hear their stories. I would go where families were congregating – and hear them tell how they got their organ and they travelled in the middle of the night. It was just the most amazing place you can ever imagine."

Brian was clearly moved by the whole process, and it deeply impacted his life. "I told my wife, Elaine, that if the stars ever aligned and it all worked out, it would be great to donate a kidney." Four years later, I was perfectly healthy from the liver transplant and everything was perfectly lined up. We have a good team at the farm. I'm 53. I'm in good health. I just knew I could do this."

"There are over 90,000 people waiting for a kidney," said Brian. Most people in the United States wait about four years to get a kidney from the waitlist. Some people wait longer. Some people never get a matching kidney from the list. 1 out of 20 (5%) kidney patients die each year while they wait for a kidney.

Brian knew he could do something about this problem – at least for one person. "I went in and did all the screening. That's a side benefit, because if you have anything wrong with you they will find it. The screening is something that is completely covered by the donor center."

The transplant center also tests the genomics of the donor so that the kidney can be

matched as closely as possible with the recipient. This helps ensure that the kidney will last longer in the recipient.

At 6:30 a.m. on December 19, 2023, Brian went in for surgery at the UW transplant center and just ten hours later his kidney was in a genomically matched person in Virginia. At 9:30 p.m. the same day the doctor came into Brian's room with pictures of his kidney and the person who was already in recovery from surgery. He also had a note from the family, saying "Best Christmas present ever."

When considering a donation like this, the question comes to mind, "What if someone I love needs a kidney down the road and I have already donated mine?" The National Kidney Registry (NKR) has thought of that. The program offers kidney prioritization for family members of living donors through its Family Voucher Program. With the Family Voucher Program, donors can donate when it is convenient for them and provide a voucher for up to five family members. In the unlikely event one of those voucher holders ever needs a kidney transplant, they can redeem the voucher to be prioritized for a living donor transplant through the NKR.

The NKR also recently introduced a program where donors can be reimbursed travel expenses and lost wages during the recovery period.

Brian, who was honored with the 2021 Master Agriculturist award, grew up on his dad's dairy farm near Stratford, Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1994 with an ag engineering degree and started working on the family farm with 40 head of milking cows. In 1995, he began to work his way into ownership by buying cattle and machinery. In 2004, after buying his Dad out, Brian began expanding the farm. By 2008, he was milking over 120 cows. Then, in 2012, Brian entered a partnership with Maple Ridge Dairy, a neighboring milk producer. Today, Maple Ridge Dairy has 2,000 cows and crops about 3,800 acres of land. Brian and his wife have five children and are active members of their community.

For more info on the National Kidney Registry visit www.kidneyregistry.org.



Brian Forrest

Soybean Treatments

Continued from page 7...

3-butyric Acid (IBC) hormones that provide early seedling vigor, resulting in evenly emerged stands. The second part – Heads Up, is a product originally developed for peas in Canada. It's not a fungicide, but considered a reduced risk bio-fungicide. The mode of action is by system acquired resistance (SRA). Different I know... basically, when applied as a seed treatment, Heads Up will stimulate the plant's own genetic resistance to naturally fight off the disease, before white mold can infect. This is NOT a silver bullet in the fight against white mold, but our agronomy advisors have seen this product make a difference when used in a systems approach. A foliar fungicide is always a recommendation in partnership with this seed treatment to protect yield against white mold.

In conclusion, recording field history notes and accurately diagnosing pest and disease problems can assist in making investment decisions in seed treatment. Follow up with your Allied agronomy advisor to ensure you choose the right seed treatment options for your management.

FEED DIVISION

Quality Assured

Quality assurance in feed production is critical to the overall success and profitability of your farm or livestock operation. Our cooperative has put in place a strict Quality Assurance Program to ensure that all of our feed products achieve the highest level of quality.

Creating a quality feed begins with quality ingredients. Feed quality control and ration consistency directly affects the nutrition and performance of your animals. All ingredients used in our feeds have been carefully chosen by our nutritionists for optimal results. A sample is collected of every incoming product and tested by a third-party laboratory to ensure it meets the required specifications. State and federal inspectors routinely verify the results to ensure that we meet all FSMA requirements.

We also perform quality control standards on our finished feeds. Every time we make feed using the ingredients which have been sampled and analyzed, we put that analysis on the tag delivered to our customers.

"We are really comfortable selling the products we sell, because we know the nutritional analysis of the various ingredients that are going into the feed that we are making for our customers," said Steve Heckel, Nutritionist. "And when the inspectors come through they look at our quality assurance program and they say we are doing what we need to do to protect our customers and the food chain."

Delivering high quality feeds requires consistent procedures, strict standards and employees that care. We are fortunate to have all three of these elements in place and are confident that the feeds delivered from our mills is the highest possible quality. Our team works diligently to ensure that the feeds you order are the feeds you receive – and that those feeds are feeds your animals will love.



**Now is the perfect time
to stock up on Cenex® lubricants!**

During the month of March there is no minimum delivery fee.*
Call to place your order today – and SAVE!

Allied Cooperative is devoted to delivering top performing quality products and exceptional service. Cenex® is dedicated to bringing advanced and innovative lubricant solutions that meet a broad range of heavy duty needs



Russ Bortz
608.780.8614
russell.bortz@chsinc.com



Isaac Brown
715.660.6448
isaac.brown@chsinc.com



Michael Kampstra
715.218.3792
michael.kampstra@chsinc.com



Justin Smith
608.547.9922
jsmith@allied.coop

*Some exclusions may apply.

BUILDING TO SERVE

New C-Store in Augusta



The countdown is on for the opening of our new Cenex® Convenience Store in Augusta, Wisconsin with a target opening of mid-March. The newly constructed store is located in a prime location, on Highway 12 in front of the Augusta High School.

The community has watched with great anticipation throughout the construction project, as the co-op demoed the small, outdated convenience store that previously sat on the property – replacing it with a beautiful, modern 3,200 square foot facility.

Under the canopy the new store will have two fuel islands with four fuel pumps. Besides gasoline, customers will also find Roadmaster Premium Diesel and DEF at the pumps. The parking lot will not have blacktop at opening, but will be paved as soon as it is warm enough outside to do so.

Inside, customers will find traditional convenience store merchandise, plus food services with Hot Stuff Foods and Chester's Chicken. "We expect this to be very popular during after school activities," said Troy Thompson, Director of Fuels/Convenience Stores. "There is only one other convenience store in Augusta, and no Kwik Trip, so we expect this to be a busy little store."

April Eisenberner, who has been with the co-op for 20 years and has served as manager for the Fairchild Convenience Store for the past 8 years, is looking forward to the additional responsibilities of managing the Augusta store. We are looking forward to a grand opening celebration later this spring.





allied.coop

P.O. Box 729 • Adams, WI 53910

Help for Colorado Potato Beetles

Allied Cooperative is now the exclusive distributor of GreenLight Biosciences' Calantha, a novel foliar biopesticide for potato farmers to control Colorado potato beetle (CPB), in Wisconsin and Illinois. Calantha provides effective, easy-to-use, and environmentally friendly protection against CPB.

Calantha has proven to consistently protect yield over 5 years of trials across the United States including in Wisconsin. It is powered by ledprona, an RNA-based active ingredient that is the first member of the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee's newly created Group 35, which gives farmers a new tool for effective resistance management of CPB.

For more information, contact your local Allied agronomy advisor.



Board Report



John Vehrenkamp,
Board Chairman

Greetings everyone!

Here we go again...the beginning of our 2024 season! If you're like me, you're busy purchasing supplies — fuel, fertilizer, seed etc. and getting equipment ready to hit the fields. Allied is doing the same, working hard at getting everything ready to go. It's extra challenging this year with the transition of becoming one company. But we are off to a great start. Both legacy co-ops ended on a high note with earnings reaching record levels. So, we enter this year being financially strong. We are also strong talent wise. Utilizing the best from both companies.

Rob Larson and Tim Clemens have been working very hard, along with everyone else, to ensure this merger is a success. I would like to give special recognition to both of these gentlemen. They have worked side by side to make this merger a success. Two CEO's working together and having a great relationship rarely happens. So hats off to both of you!

We know there are challenges, but we are committed to moving forward. Projects are being built now and future plans are under way. Our co-op is growing to keep up with changing times and to better serve our customers.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Tim Clemens who will be retiring at the end of March. He has been candid, transparent and fair. He is also a genuine great guy. So congratulations to him! I wish Tim and his wife Kim the best as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.

Lastly, I thank all of you, our customers, for your continuing support and loyalty to this co-op. We are all allies and together we will make it work.

Seasonal Staffing



by Michelle Gubser,
Director of Talent Management
mgubser@allied.coop

Seasonal employees are critical to our success during peak times. Did you know that during our Spring Agronomy season, we will need to add over 100 employees? We are blessed to have over half of our seasonal employees return year after year, but we still have a huge job in front of us to fill the rest of the seasonal positions needed. Seasonal employees help us better meet our customers' needs during the seasonal surge and give our full-time employees much needed help during an extremely busy time.

What can you do to help? Tell family, friends, anyone who will listen about these opportunities and encourage them to apply. The positions we are looking to fill:

- Seasonal Agronomy CDL Driver
- Seasonal Agronomy General Laborer

We are looking to fill these positions at the following locations: Adams, Arcadia, Auburndale, Galesville, Mauston, Plover, Stratford, Tomah, Unity, West Salem. Applications are on our website (www.allied.coop/careers). Call Michelle Gubser with any questions: 715-687-4443 x1017.



Like